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Personality and Individual Differences

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Preface

Introduction to the memorial issue for J. Philippe Rushton

This special issue – *The life history approach to human differences: J. Philippe Rushton in Memoriam* – was originally intended as a collegial tribute to Professor J. Philippe Rushton, University of Western Ontario, Canada, to be handed over to him on a special occasion where colleagues would personally testify to his many unique contributions to science. This is not going to be so. It is with deep regret we received word of Phil's untimely death on 2. October 2012.

We knew that he struggled against Addisons disease, which increasingly compromised the immune system and made it too risky for him to attend large collegial meetings, but we at least hoped he would be able to receive our tribute in the company of a small group of admirers. Instead we must turn this special issue into a memorial collection of works.

The issue consists of 15 papers, divided into three segments: Introduction, papers on Rushton's contribution to the study of differences in intelligence, and papers discussing Phil's many contributions to the analysis of altruism, personality structure, development, and life history and genetic similarity theory.

The introduction is an interview with Phil Rushton shortly before his untimely death. It provides a glimpse into his personal and professional background and is asking about his own reflections on the many areas of interests he happened to pursue successfully during his too short and often troubled career.

In the section on intelligence, Arthur Jensen first outlines Rushton's many innovative ways of confirming the "Spearman-Jensen hypothesis", i.e. that Black-White difference in general intelligence is *g*-loaded. Jensen describes how Rushton confirmed this hypothesis – often called a *Jensen Effect when showing it by means of the correlated vector approach* – in various other samples, how he documented significant average group differences in a suite of essential biological and social traits, and how Rushton explained the overall scheme in terms of life history theory.

Linda Gottfredson explains Rushton's pioneering life-history research, which he applied to the human species more systematically than anyone else, and then takes task with some of the vitriolic critique of it. She outlines the derogative nature of "mob science", exposes its enforced collective ignorance, and explains how the systematic attacks are used to quarantine not only Rushton's human biodiversity research, but Rushton the scientist as well.

The following paper by Jan te Nijenhuis focus on the Flynn-effect (secular IQ gains) and probes the Spearman-Jensen hypothesis, which Rushton defends, in several datasets, and finds a small negative average correlation between score gains and *g*-loadings. Nijenhuis takes this to mean that the Flynn-effect and group differences in intelligence most likely have different causes, but also underlines the need for a psychometric meta-analysis of all available studies.

The last paper in this section is by Heiner Rindermann. He checks the validity of past studies of intelligence in Africa by integrating various cognitive ability measures, and comes to the conclusion that the best estimate of African average IQ is 75. He also discusses environmental versus evolutionary factors relevant for intelligence, ventures into how to enhance African cognitive development, and ends by suggesting that the Black-White gap of about 1 SD will narrow due to modernization and overcoming current environmental obstacles.

The first paper in the section on Personality and Development by Paul Irwing from Manchester University, UK, concentrates on the observation that a general factor of personality (GFP) is extractable from most data on personality. Such extraction has been criticized for various reasons, and Irwing first discusses each of the objections and then provides new evidence and arguments in favor of the existence of a GFP.

Then Donald Templer from Alient International University in California evaluates Rushton's role as a theoretician and amalgamator of individual and group differences in personality with Differential K-, and Life-History theory. In addition, Templer proposes his own two-pillar theory, which is based on psychometric *g* and the general factor of personality, GFP, and heavily inspired by Rushtonian thinking, but where biology determines one's life course and life events produce deviations.

Yoon-Mi Hur from Mokpo National University in South Korea treats one of Rushton's persistent interests, altruism, and exemplifies how Rushton moved from a social learning perspective to a sociobiological view, consistent with 50% inheritance. She also details Rushton's view on the GFP as a dimension of social effectiveness which dovetails nicely with Darwin's view that natural selection gradually endowed humans with more cooperative and less contentious personalities.

Figueredo, de Baca, and Woodley from University of Arizona evaluate Rushton's application of life history theory when he explained the striking co-variation among human traits in terms of the latent structure of life history, covitality, and personality. They conclude that Rushton pioneered in the study of individual differences by proposing a theoretically meaningful and empirically useful new paradigm.

Henry Harpending and Frank Salter evaluate Rushton's theory of ethnic nepotism.

Richard Lynn from University of Ulster in Northern Ireland surely moves into a scientific mine-field by presenting empirical data on race differences in penis size and considering them in terms of Rushton's *r-K* life history theory. It is curious, at least to me, that a particular measure of human body parts can raise such strong emotions, as Rushton ran into when he in 2000 reported race differences in penis length and diameter. Now, Lynn provides new data on racially differently disaggregated measures of penile

size and is able to generally confirm predictions based on Rushtonian theory. This makes good sense in terms of evolutionary life history terms where differences in penis size and IQ seem to have evolved independently in response to climatic challenges, population density, and propensity for infidelity.

Helmuth Nyborg from Aarhus University (1968–2007), Denmark, proposes an IQ/T Geo-Climatic theory to explain how primordial migration out of Africa selected increasingly for higher IQ and lower aggression via lower testosterone as the climate got colder. Where Rushton explains similar phenomena in terms of life history theory, Nyborg envisions this migratory transaction in terms of organisms having to deal with changing geo-climatic selective pressures, but are restricted by a fixed intra-systematic energy budget: The “expensive” development of a large intelligent brain in the cold and costly establishment of associated *g*-Nexus traits, therefore had to be compensated for by less development of *T*-Nexus traits through lowering the plasma testosterone level. Test of the predictions of the General Trait Covariance model supports Rushton’s three-racial ranking of covariant trait patterns. It is argued that the recent massive South-to-North immigration reverses this primordial evolutionary progression and leads Western civilization into decay.

Gerhard Meisenberg and Michael A. Woodley from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica operationalize Rushton’s differential-*K* spectrum at the level of countries in their paper. This

national *K* factor correlates 0.877 with national IQs. They further find that *K* is predicted by IQ, $\log(GDP)$, and skin color, and further that general intelligence, *g*, is predicted by skin color, $\log(GDP)$, cranial capacity, and evolutionary novelty. They conclude that evolutionary conditions are plausible contributors to the current worldwide distribution of *K* and IQ.

The last paper by Michael A. Woodley and Gerhard Meisenberg attempts to determine if dysgenic fertility relates to the Jensen-Effekt, that is, whether IQ subtests with high *g*-loadings relate to higher dysgenic fertility, and subtests with low loadings less so. Applying Jensen’s method of correlated vectors to various race- and sex-samples, they find a significant Jensen-effect in five out of seven samples. They conclude that dysgenesis occurs on the “genetic *g*” – and not on the Flynn-effect (which is “hollow” with respect to *g*). Woodley and Meisenberg conclude that genotypic IQ or “genetic *g*” has declined significantly over time.

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